

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 AID-05 TRSE-00 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IGA-02 IO-13
ACDA-07 OMB-01 /086 W
-----172134Z 048038 /75/47

P R 171654Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6016
INFO USCINCSO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y FOR TEXT PARA 3

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MASS, SHUM, GT, US
SUBJ: GUATEMALAN PRESIDENT CONFIRMS UNWILLINGNESS ACCEPT US
MILITARY AID AS LONG AS HUMAN RIGHTS REPORTS ARE A
CONDITION

REF: GUATEMALA 2986

1. COMUSMILGP AND POLITICAL COUNSELOR CALLED MAY 16 ON PRESIDENT LAUGERUD'S SENIOR MILITARY AIDE, COL. GUILLERMO DE LA CRUZ, IN EFFORT CLARIFY GUATEMALAN POSITION ON US MILITARY ASSISTANCE FOR FY 1978, IN LIGHT MARCH NOTE REJECTING ANY "CONDITIONED" AID AND MAY 12 LETTER FROM COS EXPRESSING DESIRE TO CONTINUE IMETP (REFTEL).

2. DE LA CRUZ EXPRESSED SURPRISE AND DISMAY AT NEWS THAT US
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CONGRESS MIGHT ELIMINATE ANY APPROPRIATION FOR FURTHER MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO GUATEMALA AND INDICATED UNCERTAINTY AS TO WHAT "CONDITIONED" AID MEANT. HE EXCUSED HIMSELF FOR A MOMENT TO CONSULT WITH THE PRESIDENT AND ON RETURNING USHERED US OFFICERS IN TO SEE PRESIDENT LAUGERUD.

3. PRESIDENT SAID, IN EFFECT, GOG MEANT WHAT IT SAID IN ITS

NOTE LAST MARCH. AT ONE POINT HE SAID IT COULD NOT PERMIT ANY COUNTRY TO SIT IN JUDGMENT ON GUATEMALA; IF JUDGMENT WERE NECESSARY, LET THE UN OR THE OAS DO THE JUDGING, AND GUATEMALA CAN DEFEND ITSELF. AT ANOTHER POINT HE IMPLIED THAT DEPARTMENT'S REPORT ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN GUATEMALA WAS NOT SO OBJECTIONABLE IN ITSELF, BUT CITATION BY THE REPORT OF STATEMENTS BY AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL, A PRIVATE ORGANIZATION WITH NO LEGAL STANDING, WAS TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE. (EMBOFF POINTED OUT SEC. 502B.(B)(1) GIVES AI STATUS AND WAS BASIS FOR ITS CITATION IN DEPARTMENT'S REPORT.) US OFFICERS SAID THAT BARRING SOME UNEXPECTED DEVELOPMENT IN US LEGISLATIVE PROCESS, ALL US MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS IN GUATEMALA WOULD TERMINATE ON SEPTEMBER 30. PRESIDENT SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THAT, AND DID NOT EXPECT ANY CHANGE IN US CONGRESSIONAL SENTIMENT.

4. PRESIDENT LAUGERUD WAS WARM AND CORDIAL THROUGHOUT CONVERSATION AND SAID NO ONE IN US SHOULD HAVE IMPRESSION GUATEMALA WAS REJECTING US AID. HE DREW A DISTINCTION BETWEEN REJECTION AND AN INABILITY TO ACCEPT. GOG SIMPLY COULD NOT ACCEPT AID OFFERED UNDER CONDITIONS STATED IN THE INTERNATIONAL SECURITY ASSISTANCE ACT, WHICH HE SAID HE HAD CAREFULLY READ. HE PERSONALLY REGRETTED THIS DEVELOPMENT, ESPECIALLY WITH REGARD TO IMETP, WHICH HE REGARDED AS FAR MORE IMPORTANT THAN ARMS SALES, BECAUSE ARMS DO NOT LAST WHEREAS MEMORIES, IMPRESSIONS, FRIENDSHIPS FORMED DURING TRAINING IN THE US ENDURE - AS HIS HAD. HE VOLUNTEERED THAT HE WAS AWARE PRESIDENT CARTER WAS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS LAW, THAT HE HAD INHERITED IT FROM PRESIDENT FORD, WHO HAD ONLY RELUCTANTLY ACCEPTED IT FROM CONGRESS. HE KNEW THE KEY ROLE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF CONGRESS IN US POLITICAL SYSTEM AND STRENGTH OF SENTIMENT IN CONGRESS ON THIS ISSUE. HE EXPRESSED GRATITUDE FOR US HELP IN THE PAST AND SAID US ACTION WOULD IN NO WAY AFFECT "FRIENDSHIP, AFFECTION, AND RESPECT" GUATEMALA HOLDS FOR THE UNITED STATES.
BOSTER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY TRAINING, HUMAN RIGHTS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 17-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770196-1109, D770175-0354
Format: TEL
From: GUATEMALA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770550/aaaabqun.tel
Line Count: 103
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
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